

MATTHEWS VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

May 4, 2016

Minutes

Chairperson, George Fossett, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

The following committee members were present:

George Fossett
Greg Smith
Janet Perkins
Nobie Thrasher
Ed Dement

Fisk Outwater
James McGuire
Lawrence Stawicki
Tom Cannon
Kathleen Wilsbach

With 10 members present a quorum was declared.

Also in attendance was Rad Pate, staff member for Safety/Risk Management Coordination, Town of Matthews.

Janet Perkins led invocation.

The April minutes were sent to all members via email. The Chair received a motion from Tom Cannon and a second by Janet Perkins to approve the minutes as transmitted. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

1. George Fossett introduced Ed Dement and Kathleen Wilsbach to the Matthews Veterans Affairs Committee. The Town Board of Commissioners approved both.

2. Assistance Opportunities

a. PFC Dan Bullock. Because of a falsified birth certificate, this Marine killed in action in Vietnam was denied an honorable discharge and a Purple Heart. The Marine Corp League presented this matter to the Mecklenburg Veterans Council. The request was then referred it to Bob Becker, military and veterans specialist at U. S. Congressman Robert Pittenger's Charlotte District Office. The result is that PFC Bullock was awarded a posthumous Purple Heart and his name will be inscribed on the Vietnam War Memorial.

b. Augustin Del Hoyo, a Vietnam Navy veteran. Mr. Del Hoyo's February 2015 letter to Mayor J. Taylor, Town of Matthews, requesting assistance for approval for disability compensation was given to George Fossett. George has referred this letter to Bob Becker. The outcome is pending.

3. A discussion followed regarding how Matthews' VAC can handle veteran/military/spouse inquiries. The following suggestions were made:

a. Create a resource list for referrals with virtual technology

b. Advertise the information that the Matthews VAC exists on social media and newspapers. (Public Relations Director for the Town of Matthews would be the person to disseminate MVAC media releases.)

c. A part time ombudsman from our committee

d. Determine potential needs for our target area

e. Refer short-term emergencies to the Matthews Help Center

4. Mecklenburg County Veterans Service Council. The Town of Matthews has paid \$25 membership dues for all members of the Matthews VAC to attend monthly meetings the first Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. at the Hal Marshall Building (The Veterans Services Office building), 700 N. Tryon Street.

5. Nobie Thrasher recommended donating to USO North Carolina by using USO-nc.org. All funds donated stay in North Carolina. The money raised is divided among state USO centers with 92 cents of every dollar going back to the troops.

Old Business:

1. George Fossett asked the committee if there was an interest in having a presence on Memorial Day at Stumptown Park in Matthews. After a motion presented by Janet Perkins and second for a VAC table for veteran information, discussion followed with a nay vote for group participation. VAC members were encouraged to attend on an individual basis.

2. A flyer was distributed regarding the Charlotte Eagles Military Night. The event is on May 28, 2016 at 7:00 pm at Charlotte Christian. Active Military and Veteran admission is free. Family packets are available. For additional information, contact Carra Wheat, Director of Sales at 704-841-8644 ext. 13.

3. A breakout session for the VAC subcommittees was called for by Fisk Outwater. Fisk asked that the committees form charts with goals and objectives and name their committee heads.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Submitted by: Kathleen Wilsbach

